In this paper, I have stated some of my ideas that could be use to help improve the lives of the people of Bridgetown Barbados. In the paper I have explained why this needs to be done and how. This proposal suggests improvements on the overall traffic and problems pertaining cars, suggestions on waste management, and flood control, Renovating run-down houses and places, suggestions on the prevention of urban sprawl.

Addressing Bridgetown Problems

Bridgetown, Barbados has been currently declared a World Heritage site. Due to this great honor, Bridgetown would be receiving an increase in the population of the tourists. To promote this and to help make the lovely settlement, I would like to propose some changes, and offer some examples on what to do for urban renewal.

In my opinion the current population of Bridgetown does not need to be increased. However, the town needs to take care of itself. We should carry out this proposal because they will improve the overall quality of lifestyle of the local people living there. It could lessen traffic congestion, increase the money going into the economy by increasing public transport, give Bridgetown its own boundary and identity.

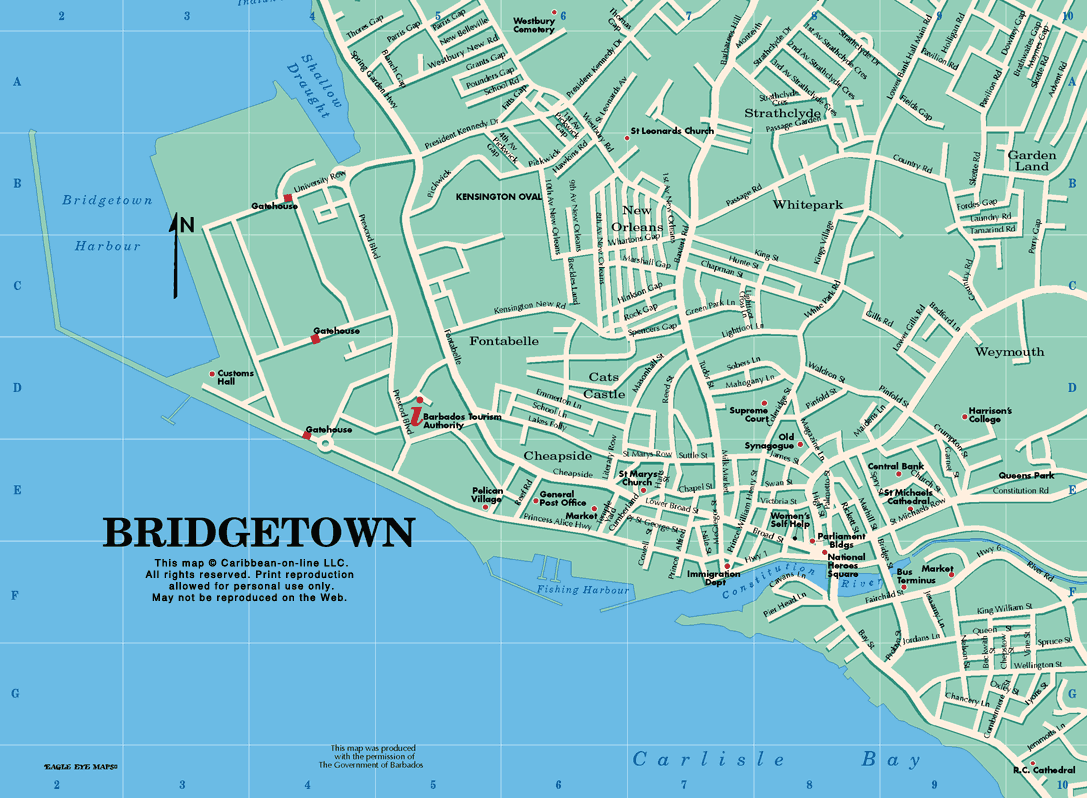
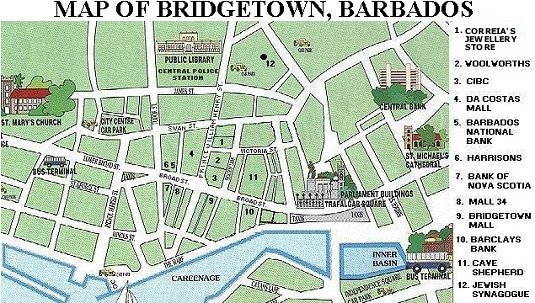
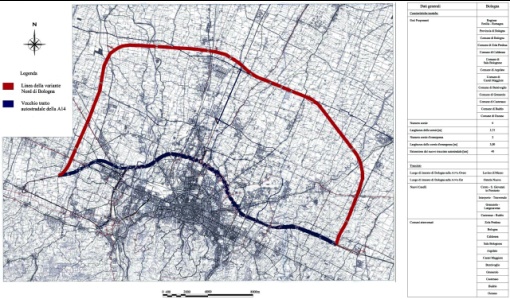
However, before I state my proposal, I would like to state some of the data I have collected to help write down my proposal.

According to my data, collected from sites that I believe to be reliable, the UN data, Bridgetown has had a population of 112,000 people in the year 2009, with an annual urban population growth rate estimated to be 1.7% between the years 2010 to 201. Therefore, I can assume that in this year, 2012, the population of Bridgetown is 118,000 people. Said that, a Barbados Government site, states that there is an estimate of around 80, 000 people living in Bridgetown. And according to the Barbados Crime Survey done in 2002, about 50% of the people living in Barbados own cars. Therefore we can state that out of the 75% of the people living in Bridgetown, who can legally own a car, 45000 people own cars in Bridgetown. However, these people are not the one generating the traffic in Bridgetown.

In term of urban sprawl, in my opinion, it has already happened. There is not a map that will clearly state were Bridgetown official ends and starts. However, I would like to have Bridgetown retain its own identity, and in my proposal I would state how.

To complete these proposals however, there is a high cost and high need for a good government to control how it goes.

I propose several things for Bridgetown, that would help reduce the traffic congestion in the mornings and in the afternoons when everyone has to go, it would help prevent urban sprawl, parking. But overall they will allow the people living in Bridgetown to have a nicer quality of life, not necessarily adding more people to live there. I don’t think that the population in Bridgetown needs to increase, I just think that their quality of life could be improved, and here are some of the ways:

One is to create a boarder around Bridgetown. I would like to create a highway on for this boarder. This would lessen the traffic in Bridgetown, by forcing people to go round Bridgetown, instead of through Bridgetown. This has already been done in some places like Bologna where they built highways.

Or create an urban agriculture area. Where you take farmers from other parishes and make the land surrounding Bridgetown theirs to grow on. However, this area should be well protected, and you should establish a regulation that would control the urban land market to prevent them from building. London’s Greenbelt, is similar to this one, except this belt should grow crops. These would address traffic and urban sprawl.

Another proposal would be to strengthen the other towns. For example, someone form Speightstown, would not want to have to go to Bridgetown for a simple clinic checkup or for collage, or to go to the government office, or a bank. Therefore, I suggest adding bigger better clinic, tertiary schools, banks, laboratories, government offices and shopping centers in other places around the Barbados, like Speightstown. This would address the problem of traffic.

This next proposal addresses the problem of car parking. My proposal is to add parking spaces just outside of Bridgetown. Like the ones indicated in the map in yellow-green. And add very good public transport into the town. So that to enter the Bridgetown, people can leave their cars in the car parks outside and take the bus to the place to which they have to go to, therefore increasing the use of public transport and reducing the use of cars inside the town therefore, reducing traffic.

Another proposal would be to allow the flexibility of the working hours of the people working in Bridgetown. Not decreasing the working hour but allowing people to come at a time from between 7-9am instead of all at 7 to minimize the traffic at those hours and in the afternoon after the people have finished their working hours. So for example if the person wants to spend time with his son/daughter early they could come in early, or if they have to drop their children off and come a bit later.

Another issue not to be skipped is floods. Minor floods are easily dealt with. Good drainage system on the road that are kept well. The drainage should be looked at every week and kept clean, so that rain water does not build up an over flow into the streets causing the flood. This has been done in several countries liC:\Users\Dalisay\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\Y89QYOO2\MC900441870[1].wmfke in Netherlands.

One issue that is very important is proper waste disposal. I propose landfills should be kept in the island so that people are motivated to get rid of them. In that case, they should be properly maintained. I think that an artificial impermeable layer should be placed on the whole before it is covered with the waste. And the soil that should be used is a soil like clay that is dense and water had a hard time going through. But before that, I think that there should be a fully working recycling center in Bridgetown, where people segregate their trash and bring it to bins that are collected and brought to the recycling center. So that only the biodegradables go into the landfill. From then it would be alternate layers of soil and waste. Then when the whole is complete it would be nice to then plant a tree with big roots to hold the soil together. And to fully use the landfill you could use the gas, methane to create energy.

Renovation of run-down buildings is very important. The purpose of renovating is to retain the mixed residence in the area. An example of where it should have been done is the Bronx. It used to be a middleclass are, but then the buildings began to crumble and no one renovated them making the rent lower and allowing lower-class or those who immigrated to mover there. Places where there should be renovation are like this house:

So that instead of it just being there, people who need houses can live there.

Other places would be like the market near the bus terminal, so that more people would come and buy the products. And also the cheapside public market and the fish market. They might not be run-down but it would be nice to have them better looking. An example of a good renovation was what they did in Carriedo, Manila.

What needs to be remembered is that these are only proposals based on assumptions and should be further tested to see if it works.

Refereces:

<http://www.barbados.org/btwnmap.jpg>

<http://www.caribbean-on-line.com/br/images/Bridgetown06.gif>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bb.html>

<http://www.worldofstock.com/stock-photos/run-down-old-chattel-house-in-bridgetown/AOB1744>

<http://www.avoe.org/UrbanRenaissance09/VarianteNordBO.jpg>